College of Health Sciences

Shelley C. Mishoe, Dean
Richard E. Benjamin, Associate Dean
Deborah B. Bauman, Assistant Dean

2114 Health Sciences Building
Norfolk, VA 23529
757-683-4960
http://www.odu.edu/hs

Doctorate:
• Health Services Research (Ph.D.)
• Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
• Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

Master’s:
• Athletic Training (M.S.A.T.)
• Community Health (M.S.)
• Emphasis area: Environmental Health
• Dental Hygiene (M.S.)
• Nursing (M.S.N.)
• Public Health (M.P.H)
• Tracts: Environmental Health & Health Promotion

Linked Programs:
• B.S. in Health Sciences to Master of Public Health
• B.S. in Dental Hygiene to M.S. in Dental Hygiene
• B.S. in Environmental Health to M.S. in Community Health
• B.S. in Environmental Health to Master of Public Health

Graduate Certificate Programs:
• Global Health
• Modeling and Simulation in Health Sciences
• Molecular Diagnostics
• Nurse Educator
• Nurse Executive
• Occupational Safety

College Mission
The college mission is to improve individual and community health by advanced professional education, influential research, and responsive service. The vision of the College of Health Sciences is to be an internationally recognized leader in advancing health care by educating competent practitioners, generating practically significant scientific knowledge and innovative technologies, fostering scholarly collaborations, and promoting positive public health policies.

The college consists of the School of Community and Environmental Health, the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene, the School of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, the School of Nursing, and the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. These schools offer a variety of master’s and doctoral degrees, and non-degree certificate programs, linked degree completion programs, and professional continuing education programs. In addition, many of these programs are offered off-campus and in a variety of distance learning formats. The degree programs are competitive, fully accredited, and nationally recognized for their quality graduates.

Program Application, Acceptance, and Continuance
A separate application must be submitted to be considered for acceptance into the health sciences majors. Application information, qualifications, deadlines, and advisors are listed in the specific program sections of this catalog and on the web site.

Acceptance to the University does not constitute or guarantee acceptance into a health sciences major. Students are notified by the program director of their acceptance and any other program specific requirements such as physicals, immunizations, technical standards, etc. Continuance in the health sciences majors requires strong academic achievement, including successful demonstration of knowledge and use of practical and critical thinking skills in laboratory and in clinical rotations. Criminal background checks may be required as specified in course syllabi. Any student deemed unacceptable for clinical rotation due to results from a criminal background check will not be allowed to complete the program of study.

The College of Health Sciences has developed graduate programs in the health-related professions that prepare individuals for practice, teaching, research, or administration in health-care delivery to meet the needs of the region, the state, and the nation. These programs include Master of Science degrees in community health and dental hygiene, the Master of Science in Nursing degree, the Master of Public Health degree, the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, and the Ph.D. in health services research.

Certificate in Global Health
https://www.odu.edu/hs/centers/globalhealth

Muge Akpinar-Elci, MD, MPH, Program Director

Global Health aims to show us the big picture. Mistakenly, people assume that the target of “Global Health” involves mainly tackling problems in the developing world. Diseases and health problems do not recognize borders. All countries can learn from the experiences of other countries. Neglecting to address health problems in a global scale may affect people’s health, well-being and national security around the world including in developed countries such as the United States.

This competency-based certificate program aims to provide comprehensive training on Global Health. Additionally, this certification program embraces a multidisciplinary focus. The Global Health Certificate is designed as an online program for professionals who are practicing or who plan to practice in a worldwide setting. Graduates of the Global Health Certificate can expect to find employment in a variety of fields including health-related governmental/non-governmental organizations, university research programs, international healthcare consultancies, and multinational corporations (Education Advisory Board, 2013). The certificate requires three core courses (3 credit hours each), two electives (2 credit hours each) and a practicum or a research paper (2 credit hours) for a total fifteen (15) credits. A maximum of 6 credit hours from graduate level courses may be transferred. Admission to the certificate program requires a bachelor’s degree (or the equivalent).

Required Core Courses

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 746</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 776</td>
<td>Global Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 702</td>
<td>Health Management</td>
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Electives (Select two)

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 778</td>
<td>Global Environmental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 780</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluating Global Health Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 782</td>
<td>One Health, One Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 784</td>
<td>Key Competencies for Co-creating Sustainable Futures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 785</td>
<td>Issues and Opportunities in Global Health Research</td>
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Research paper or Practicum (Select one)

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 798</td>
<td>Supervised Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 768</td>
<td>Practicum in Global Health</td>
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</tbody>
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NOTE: A maximum of 6 credit hours from graduate level courses may be transferred.

Total Hours 15

PhD in Health Services Research
757-683-4960
http://www.odu.edu/academics/programs/doctoral/health-services-research

Old Dominion University
Dr. Richarden Benjamin, Interim Program Director

The primary mission of the Ph.D. in health services research is to develop leaders and problem solvers whose professional services will improve the health of the population not only in Eastern Virginia but also statewide, nationally, and internationally. Health services researchers examine health care quality and effectiveness, patient outcomes, access to care, health care costs and financing, primary and managed care, new technologies, and other critical topics. Health services researchers pursue careers in many settings, including academia, professional organizations, research centers, health policy groups, clinical settings, and in federal, state, and local agencies.

The goals of the program are to enable students to conduct and interpret health services research, to formulate and analyze public health policy, to lead programs and organizations that address the health care needs of populations and to work directly with community members to empower them to be a part of the policy formulation process. In accomplishing these goals students in the program will develop the critical skills necessary to assemble and integrate qualitative and quantitative evidence applicable to problem formulation and policy analysis. They will be able to design viable programs, manage resources, and measure the effectiveness of service delivery to populations. Students will be awarded the Ph.D. in health services research after the completion of all University and program requirements for graduate degrees.

Requirements for Admission

Students are admitted to the Ph.D. program during the fall term only. Applications for admission are reviewed by the Ph.D. in Health Services Research Program admissions committee which includes the graduate program director. To qualify for admission, an applicant must meet the general University admission requirements at the graduate level as well as specific program requirements, including:

1. A completed master’s degree from a program that is accredited by a specialized accrediting agency; degrees such as M.D., J.D., and D.D.S. are also acceptable;
2. A minimum acceptable grade point average of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) overall for the master’s degree;
3. Acceptable total scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE); Verbal and Quantitative sections examined separately.
4. For those whose native language is not English a TOEFL score of at least 550 (79 for internet-based test);
5. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended;
6. A current curriculum vitae or resume;
7. Three letters of reference from sources capable of commenting on the applicant’s readiness and commitment for doctoral studies. At least one, and preferably all letters should be from academic sources; other, letters must be from professional supervisors;
8. A 1500 word essay discussing the applicant’s academic and professional goals. This essay should discuss how the Ph.D. in Health Services Research program will contribute towards meeting these goals.
9. A personal interview to discuss applicant's research focus and fit with the program faculty's expertise.

Prerequisite courses are necessary for students who do not have graduate preparation in basic statistics, research design, and basic computer literacy. Prerequisite courses in health delivery systems and community health may be required for students without academic preparation or experience in these areas.

Complete the application form and submit all required materials to the Office of Admissions, Old Dominion University.

Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of at least 60 semester hours of graduate level coursework, including all required courses as listed below. (Students who receive two or more grades of C+ or one grade of F may not continue in the program).
2. Two semesters of full-time residency. These do not have to be consecutive.

3. A health services research internship.
4. Acceptable performance on written and oral candidacy examinations in the major field of study at the end of the program coursework. Students may re-take the candidacy exams only once.
5. Successful defense of a dissertation proposal.
6. Completion of a dissertation representing the candidate’s ability to conduct scholarly, original research. The quality of the research must be suitable for publication in an academic, peer-reviewed journal.
7. Successful oral defense of the dissertation.
8. Submission of the approved final copy of the dissertation.

Time frames for completion of degree requirement are as follows:

1. The entire process (from admission to dissertation defense) must be completed within eight years. Exceptions to this time limit require the approval of the graduate program director, the department chair, and the college dean.
2. Academic credit which is more than eight years old at the time of graduation must be re-validated by an examination before the work can be applied to a doctoral degree.
3. The dissertation must be completed within five years after the candidacy exams are passed.
4. Dissertations should be defended at least six weeks prior to the end of the semester in which the student expects to graduate.

Each student is required to have an advisory faculty member who will meet with the student after the first nine hours of coursework are complete. The faculty member, with the graduate program director, approves the student’s planned coursework (plan of study) and conducts the written and oral competency exams at the end of the coursework. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Curriculum

The coursework consists of 12 credits of health services core courses, 18 credits of research core courses, six credits of health policy core courses and a six credit cognate area. A 1-credit colloquium is required each semester along with coursework (4 course series). Additionally students complete an internship (3 credits), a dissertation seminar (3 credits), and 12 dissertation credits. Up to 9 credit hours of coursework may be at the 600 level. Up to 12 hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another university and applied towards the Ph.D. degree. Transfer of credit is approved at the discretion of the guidance committee and the graduate program director.

The Health Services Core

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 801</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 809</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Approaches to Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 814</td>
<td>Theory in the Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 864</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
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Research Core

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<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 810</td>
<td>Research Design and Application</td>
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<td>HLSC 811</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods in Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 812</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 813</td>
<td>Measurement of Health Phenomena</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 846</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 804</td>
<td>Methods of Program Evaluation</td>
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Health Policy Core

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 815</td>
<td>Decision Analysis in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 872</td>
<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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Culminating Courses

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 868</td>
<td>Internship in Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLSC 881</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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Dissertation

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>12</td>
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Candidacy Exams (Written and Oral)

The candidacy examination is normally taken during the spring or fall semester of registration in the last formal graduate credits. Through the candidacy examination, the student’s advisory and examination committee in conjunction with the candidacy exam subcommittee and the graduate program director shall ensure that the student has demonstrated a mastery of the subject matter in all fields of the program, has an adequate knowledge of relevant literature, and has the ability to identify, utilize, and apply research skills and techniques. To be eligible to take the examination, the student must meet the program requirements, must have completed or be in the semester of completing all coursework and the internship, must be recommended by his/her advisory and examination committee, and must achieve at least a 3.0 GPA on all coursework taken within the program. Students need to apply to take the candidacy exam to the graduate program director by the specified deadline each semester. The application form must be submitted by February 10 to take the exam in the spring semester and by September 10 to take the exam in the fall semester.

Questions for the candidacy examination are based on coursework taken in the core, cognate and culminating areas and require a sophisticated demonstration of skills. The examination is comprehensive in nature and consists of written and oral components. Questions for the written exam consist of the problem, case study, or scenario variety. The oral examination is taken only after all of the components of the written exam are passed, and must be taken in the same semester as the written exam. The oral examination is approximately one and one-half hours in length and permits an in-depth discussion of the written topics and other related materials. All parts of the examination are graded pass/fail. Students may retake the exam only once. Parts of the written exam that are not passed on the first attempt need to be re-taken when the exam is offered again. The oral exam can be re-taken in the same semester.

Dissertation (12 credits)

The candidate’s program of study culminates in a dissertation representing an original research project which makes a real and significant contribution to health services knowledge and practice. The dissertation provides a demonstration of the student’s ability to conduct independent scholarly research in health services research. The dissertation phase begins only after all other degree requirements (coursework, candidacy exams, dissertation seminar) have been completed. Towards this end, the candidate must form a dissertation committee, compose a letter of intent for the dissertation topic and have approval by the committee, and the college human subjects committee or the ODU IRB, write and successfully defend a dissertation proposal, conduct the research necessary to complete the dissertation, write the dissertation, successfully defend the dissertation at an oral defense, make any necessary changes and submit a final approved copy. Additionally, all Ph.D. students are strongly encouraged to author at least one journal article based upon their dissertation research.

Dissertation Committee

After the candidacy exams are successfully passed, the dissertation committee is formed by the student in conjunction with, and approval by, the graduate program director. A dissertation committee must have at least three members, one of whom is from outside the department of the major field of study. The members of the dissertation committee must all hold doctorates and be graduate certified unless an exception first has been approved by the program director. The committee’s purpose is to supervise the entire process from proposal writing and defense through the oral defense of the dissertation. The committee supervises and approves the choosing of a topic, the choosing of a theoretical framework, the development of the research methods, the actual conduct of the research and the writing of the results.

Dissertation Letter of Intent

A dissertation starts with a letter of intent. The student will draft a 3-5 page description of the proposed study. This letter should contain the statement of purpose of the study and a brief description of why the topic is important to health services research. The letter should also identify the theoretical framework that will be employed, as well as provide an overview of the proposed methods. Where appropriate, the letter must include an addendum that indicates the student has permission to use the proposed data source and/or access the proposed population of interest. The dissertation committee needs to unanimously approve the letter of intent in order for the student to write and defend the dissertation proposal.

Dissertation Proposal

The dissertation proposal provides a detailed explanation of the research being proposed, and should address the significance of the study, provide a substantive literature review and describe, in detail, the methods that will be used to collect data. The proposal will be defended in a public forum to which are invited all faculty, staff and students in the college. The final draft of the dissertation proposal must be available for public viewing two weeks before the defense date. No formal work should begin on the dissertation until the dissertation committee and the graduate program director unanimously approve the dissertation proposal in writing. Dissertation proposals can be defended prior to IRB approval/exemption. However, no data collection or interaction with study participants can ever begin until the dissertation chair and the student have obtained IRB approval or exemption. Approval of the dissertation proposal is NOT a pro forma activity and the student is cautioned never to regard it as such.

Dissertation and Final Oral Defense

The completion of a dissertation is the cornerstone of the Ph.D. program. Through the dissertation, candidates demonstrate that they are prepared to join the company of scholars and to be leaders in health services research. The candidate should work closely with his/her dissertation committee throughout this process. Dissertations must be carefully prepared, publicly available for viewing, defended in a public forum and approved by the dissertation committee, the graduate program director and the college dean.

The dissertation committee plays a vital role in the completion of the dissertation. Candidates are expected be in regular communication with the committee chair and members regarding the progress of the study, research results and manuscript drafts. While preparing a dissertation, candidates must be continuously enrolled for a minimum of one credit hour per semester. University resources may not be used unless a candidate is officially enrolled. Advice or assistance from committee members should not be expected unless the candidate is officially enrolled.

Dissertations must be carefully prepared according to ODU guidelines using the most current version of the Guide for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations (obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies). The APA style manual should be used to cover specific questions of style. However, the requirements of the Guide for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations take precedence over all the guidelines contained in the APA manual. All proposed dissertation research which involves human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the college or University’s Human Subjects Committee. The process and approval must be documented in the text of the dissertation. Once the dissertation is successfully defended and in its
final form, the student should ensure that five copies of the dissertation (with all necessary signatures) are given to the Office of the University Registrar for binding and sign the microfilming and copyright agreements. Students can choose to have additional copies bound for their own personal use. All dissertations will be published in Dissertation Abstracts International.

Once the dissertation committee approves that the dissertation is ready, the student works with the dissertation committee to set a defense date and to ensure that the defense date is made public. The student should provide sufficient copies of the dissertation for public viewing at least two weeks before the defense date. The defense itself needs to be publicized two weeks in advance as well. While the defense is publicized and open to the public in general, care should be taken to ensure that all college faculty and administrators and all departmental students receive invitations to the defense. The entire dissertation committee must attend the final oral dissertation defense. After the dissertation defense, the dissertation committee meets in a closed-door meeting to discuss the dissertation defense and to vote on its approval or disapproval. If the dissertation is not approved, it can be defended only once more (no sooner than three months after the initial defense). The final dissertation must be approved through a signature process that includes the dissertation chair, all members of the dissertation committee, the graduate program director and the dean of the College of Health Sciences. Note that a dissertation may be approved orally at the final defense, but may still require some editing before the final copy is approved by the committee. The Doctor of Philosophy in Health Services Research will be awarded upon the oral defense of the dissertation, the submission of the final approved copy of the dissertation and the completion of all other program requirements for graduation.

**Continuing Education Programs**

Short courses, national conferences, workshops, refresher courses, certificate programs and seminars are offered by the different schools in the college on and off campus on a noncredit continuing education (CEU) basis. Professional continuing education programs cover a wide range of topics, including environmental health, dental hygiene, dental assisting, nursing, nuclear medicine technology, health-care management, medical technology, physical therapy, community health, mental health, and chemical dependency.

- Continuing education serves the following functions:
- licensure and certification for professionals and practitioners,
- credential and degree achievement and professional development to update knowledge and skills. Clientele served by the programs include nursing and allied health professionals, human service workers, managers and supervisory personnel, technicians, laboratory personnel, and health educators.

Visit the website to view current offerings.